

REMARKS

APPLICATION STATUS

No claims have been added and claim 24 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-23 and 25-34 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The indication by the Office that claims 1-20, 28, and 31-34 are allowed is acknowledged with appreciation.

Further, the indication in the Office Action that claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted with appreciation. The limitations of claim 24 have been incorporated into independent claim 21, from which claim 24 depends, and claim 24 has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 21 is now in condition for allowance.

Yet further, the indication by the Office that claims 29 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the dependency objection is acknowledged with appreciation. Claim 29 has been amended to depend from claim 28, as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, claims 29 and 30 are now in condition for allowance.

DRAWINGS

The indication by the Examiner that the drawings are accepted is acknowledged with appreciation.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 29 and 30 are objected to, as claim 29 should depend from claim 28 instead of claim 24. Claim 29 has been so amended. This amendment goes to the form of the claim and not the substance, *e.g.*, the amendment was not made to overcome any rejection over prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 29 and 30 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 USC § 102 REJECTIONS

Claims 21-23, 26, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,481,494 (Dusterhoft *et al.*). Claims 21-23 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,355,949 (Sparlin *et al.*). Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 24 and, thus, is in condition for allowance. As each of rejected claims 22, 23, and 25-27 depend from claim 21, they are also in condition for allowance.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 21-23, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Dusterhoft *et al.*, and the rejection of claims 21-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Sparlin *et al.*, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION


Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Daren C. Davis at

(817) 578-8616 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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